

DELIBERATIVE PROCESS

Interview Summary

Person(s) Interviewed: Joan Card, Senior Policy Advisor, EPA Region 8

Interviewers: Mary Kay Lynch, Allyn Stern

Date: December 10, 2015

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm MST

Joan Card was interviewed on December 10, 2015, as part of an internal EPA After-Action review of the Agency's response to the release at Gold King Mine in Colorado on August 5, 2015.

Synopsis of interview

General Observations and Recommendations.

(b) (5) DPP

Notification

Martin Hestmark notified Rich Mylott, Region 8 press office, to let him know that we needed a statement. Martin and the media team notified Joan. Joan called Shaun McGrath, the Regional Administrator, who was traveling out of state.

Joan expressed concern to Shaun that the Region had caused the spill.

Senior management in Denver had been relying on the information provided to them by the team on site. By 9:00 am on Thursday, she and Shaun saw the 1st photo of the spill from the local paper's website and realized the potential impact.

Shaun and Joan began to make calls to notify leadership in the state of Colorado and others, including Regions 6 and 9, on Thursday mid-morning.

Commented [CJ1]: Several state staff folks were well aware of the incident the day before.

Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command/Unified Area Command Structure

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Shaun McGrath went to Silverton on Friday and Joan stayed in the region, working as the senior official, through the weekend while the RA was in Silverton.

Within a few short days, the Region sent a new team, including a new Incident/Area Commander, to address spill response.

(b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]

Joan did not have incident command training from EPA, but had training, including participating in top officials (TOPOFF) exercises, in her position as the AZ Water Quality Administrator.

(b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]

Data and Information Management/Communication

(b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]

Over the first weekend, the Region held daily calls with the media. Joan and Martin Hestmark were spokespeople.

(b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]